

By: Elkins

H.R. No. 421

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family, friends, and colleagues mourn the loss of
2 businesswoman and public servant Brenda Arnett, who passed away in
3 Houston on February 9, 2007; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Beaumont on August 5, 1950, Ms. Arnett was
5 raised in Orangefield; she moved to Houston in 1968 to study at the
6 University of Houston and the Hermann Hospital Radiology Technology
7 School; and

8 WHEREAS, She showed her entrepreneurial spirit at the age of
9 23, when in 1973, she founded Relief Services, Inc., a company that
10 provided staffing, technical support, and training for hospitals,
11 clinics, and manufacturers of health care equipment; RSI's clients
12 included the National Institutes of Health and Walter Reed
13 Hospital; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1988 she founded a subsidiary to RSI, Advanced
15 Health Education, Inc., which provided technical and management
16 training to health care workers; together, RSI and AHE employed
17 1,800 people in 43 states; as a leader in employee training, Ms.
18 Arnett also served as mentor and stakeholder in the University of
19 Houston School of Entrepreneurship and Innovation from 1992 to
20 1995; and

21 WHEREAS, Ms. Arnett brought her considerable skills and vast
22 experience to public service in 1995 when Governor George W. Bush
23 appointed her as executive director of the Texas Department of
24 Commerce; in this important post, she represented Texas on trade

1 and investment missions to Latin America, Western Europe, Asia,
2 Africa, and the newly opened markets of Central and Eastern Europe;
3 she helped Texas lead the nation in the creation of new jobs with
4 the Texas Smart Jobs Program, which brought 150,000 new jobs to the
5 state; under her direction, the award-winning ad campaign, "Texas:
6 It's Like a Whole Other Country," helped make the Lone Star State
7 the second most-visited state in the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, Upon returning to the private sector, she devoted
9 her boundless energies to the creation of two new companies, Otro
10 Mundo, Inc., and its subsidiary, Brenda Arnett & Associates; and

11 WHEREAS, This proud daughter of Texas devoted herself in both
12 the public and private sectors to creating jobs and furthering the
13 economic development of her home state, and her energy, initiative,
14 and spirit of innovation will stand as an example to all; now,
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
17 Legislature hereby honor the memory of Brenda Arnett and extend
18 sincere condolences to the members of her family: to her mother,
19 Evelyn Arnett; to her sisters, Charlene Arnett and Joy Benson; to
20 her nieces, Jana Benson, and Jessica Strickland and her husband,
21 Burt; to her grandnephews, Ty and Nolan Strickland; and to her other
22 relatives and many friends; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Brenda
26 Arnett.